

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee
Tuesday, January 7, 2014
Swift Community Center
121 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

6:45p.m. Executive Session, Dr. Gifford made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (2) (8) Teacher Negotiations. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

School Committee members and school district staff in attendance included Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:46); and Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived at 6:47p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

Town Council members and staff members present for the pre-budget meeting included Mr. Michael B. Isaacs, President; Mr. Jeffrey B. Cianciolo, Vice-President; Mr. Bradford C. Bishop; Mr. Mark Watkins Gee; Mr. Michael S. Kiernan; Mr. Thomas E. Coyle III, Town Manager; and Ms. Kristen Benoit, Budget and Accounting Manager.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green and Mr. Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:17p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Ms. Bambi Lukens, 131 Westwood Drive, questioned the status of 1:1 devices and described how 1:1 devices assist students with research in the classroom. Ms. Rebecca Bliss, 30 McPartlin Way, discussed the absence of a curriculum director in relation to the curriculum and the common core. She also inquired about technology and the role the strategic plan will have with 1:1 devices. Mr. Michael Murphy expressed concerns about a 1:1 purchase questioning how students will use them. Mrs. Heather Larkin, 90 Sycamore, noted how students spontaneously use technology.

IV. Pre-Budget Meeting with Town Council-RIGL 16-2-21 and 16-2-21.3

This is the second pre-budget meeting of the School Committee and Town Council. Since the town and school have already met, Mr. Isaacs noted there was little to discuss since the budget process is underway. This meeting is an opportunity for the town and school to ask each other questions. No further information is available regarding state spending and there are no updates regarding revenue from the town. The town is waiting to hear from the Governor and the General Assembly. Mr. Green noted the Governor is expected to release the budget earlier this year, which may assist with school funding. Mrs. Crawford has preliminary figures from RIDE,

which are estimated at 6% higher than last year, which is about \$110,000. She does not anticipate funding increases as seen in previous years.

Mr. Cianciolo asked if the Town Council could receive background information on 1:1 devices if they are included in the FY2015 budget. Mr. Green indicated that Dr. Mercurio is preparing a business case, which will incorporate presentations, pros/cons, and outcomes. The 1:1 proposal should appear on the next School Committee agenda.

Mr. Isaacs has tentatively scheduled a presentation by the auditors for the Town Council meeting on January 27, 2014. Since promotions are scheduled for 7:00p.m., Mr. Isaacs asked if the School Committee could meet at 7:30p.m. Mr. Green asked School Committee members to check their availability and reminded School Committee members of the upcoming budget meetings scheduled for January 28, January 30, February 4 (during a regularly scheduled meeting), and February 6. The pre-budget meeting between the School Committee and Town Council members ended at 7:35p.m. The Town Council left the meeting to discuss their January meeting schedule. At 7:45p.m., Councilman Cianciolo moved to adjourn and Councilman Keirnan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for December 17, 2013

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular minutes. Executive session minutes were not voted on due to a requested edit by Mr. Green. They will appear on the next agenda.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Crawford will attend the RISSA/RISASBO Legal Institute meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2014. A Strategic Planning Workshop will be scheduled for the School Committee and may take place after a budget meeting. Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Podraza will attend a RIDE meeting on January 14, 2014 to discuss seniors affected by the graduation requirements.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. Volunteer Coach Wrestling-EGHS-Tim O'Hara
2. Asst Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Justin Carlson
3. Asst Coach Boys' Track-EGHS-Bruce Mastracchio
4. Asst Coach Girls' Track-EGHS-Erin Newman

On a motion by Mrs. Records, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1-4.

b. Resignation-Jason Cerro, 0.2 FTE Health Teacher-Eldredge

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

c. Approval of Field Trip-EGHS-Ski Club-February 28-March 2, 2014

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip. Mrs. Winters questioned the ratio of chaperones/students for insurance purposes. Mrs. Crawford believes it is 8-1, but will confirm.

d. Approval of Ultimate Frisbee Club-Cole and EGHS

This item was tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Cobain has been contacted regarding scheduling and The Trust has been contacted about insurance. The district is waiting for The Trust's input. Dr. Mercurio strongly recommends moving forward with the clubs. Both clubs are unfunded clubs with volunteer coaches, who will need School Committee approval, including the appropriate background checks. Thomas Shaughnessy, a Cole student, discussed plans for the club and his upcoming meetings with Mrs. Meyer. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve clubs at Cole and EGHS.

e. Removal of previous Special Education Advisory Members effective 10/1/13

Since previous members could not be identified, the Committee agreed to remove any previous Special Education Advisory members. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to remove all previous members effective 10/1/13.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:59p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**